

## Sexuality Policy

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**MOAIDD**

*-- A Consumer and Family Review Team -*

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### MOAIDD suggestions to consider when developing a sexuality policy

- Sexual expression and/or relationships, this is a private matter and people must be supported in having opportunities to interact with others; this may include dating, dances, or other social gatherings. It is not up to the provider or regional center to decide if a person can have a relationship, it is up to the person and if applicable, their guardian.
- Sex Education: this should not be considered a "how to" manual of instructions. People with disabilities need to be educated about sexual abuse, that they have the right to say no and the names of their body parts so that they can accurately report any abuse. People also need the knowledge about what is appropriate and inappropriate physical contact in order to avoid being charged with harassment or assault. People, who choose to enter into a physical relationship with another person, need information in order to make informed decisions regarding this. Information provided needs to be non-valued based.
- Each person should be allowed to express his or her masculinity or femininity, this may include growing a beard, wearing jewelry, etc.
- Recognize that all people, including those with disabilities are sexual beings and all people go through developmental milestones.
- People with disabilities have limited access to good, accurate, positive information. We have to be their teachers, if we don't provide this information a perpetrator may.
- In policies and procedures, closely examine staff to consumer interactions and relationships (make sure we are not sending different messages).
- Develop a philosophy, belief or mission statement that incorporates the above statements.

### Resources

Metropolitan Organization To Counter Sexual Assault (MOSCA), Kansas City, MO. 816-931-4527

Dave Hingsburger & Diverse City Press: [www.diverse-city.com/display.htm](http://www.diverse-city.com/display.htm)

Missouri Alliance for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities  
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[Home](#)